

Application No. 10/754,537
Amendment dated June 23, 2005
Response to Office Action dated March 23, 2005

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, claims 1, 3, and 7 have been amended. Claims 1-19 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 1-3, 7, 11 and 13-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being unclear due to the recitation of "a liquid at ordinary temperature". Thus, the phrase "a liquid at ordinary temperature" has been amended to "a liquid at 25°C". As a result, the rejections of claims 1 and 7, and claims 2-3, 11 and 13-18, which depend therefrom, based on 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph should be overcome.

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over either Goan (U.S. Patent No. 6,524,776) or Kobayashi (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0033453).

A slipping agent is disclosed in column 14, lines 16-18 of Goan and in paragraphs [0075] and [0116] of Kobayashi.

However, these references only disclose a polysiloxane compound, wax, liquid paraffin and the like and include no disclosure of a specific structure.

Further, in the present invention, definite limitations regarding a volatile rate of the slipping agent and a permeating rate of the slipping agent to the transportation rollers are recited in claim 1 and claim 4. Goan and Kobayashi include no teaching whatsoever regarding such numerical limitations, nor any noticeable suggestion of a volatile rate of the slipping agent or a permeating rate of the slipping agent. Moreover, there is no suggestion regarding the effects

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that are achieved by carrying out such limitations.

Further, as described on page 10 of the present application, contamination of transportation rollers causes planar failure for a photosensitive material, and the present invention is intended to suppress such planar failure. Meanwhile, there is no teaching whatsoever in Goan or Kobayashi that the cause of this planar failure is related to a volatile rate of the slipping agent or a permeating rate of the slipping agent to the transportation rollers. Incidentally, "planar failure" or "plane-like failure" refers to a phenomenon in which chemical substances remaining after thermal development adhere to the transportation rollers as contamination, and this contamination adheres to the surface of the photosensitive material during the repetition of thermal development to adversely affect an output image or the like. Specifically, a problem occurs in which, for example, observation of a photographic image becomes difficult due to oily deposits adhered to the surface of a medical film.

Accordingly, even considering the knowledge of persons of ordinary skill in the art, a recognition that some advantage or beneficial result would have been produced by modifying Goan or Kobayashi cannot be derived from these references (MPEP2143.01).

Regarding the numerical limitations in amended claims 1 and 4, a Declaration including data for showing the critical significance of these recited numerical values is submitted herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition

Application No. 10/754,537
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for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested.



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